

“CHRISTMAS 2025: JESUS, THE MAN WHO IS GOD”

1. The Very Image of God (v.15a - *He is the* Less than 30 years after Jesus died, rose again, and ascended to glory, the Church praises Him as God Almighty in this early hymn

Paul answers a heresy in Colossae saying many spirits and gods emanate from the High God - Jesus is only one among many

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

**Jesus of Nazareth is...
*image of the invisible God***

Exact Likeness - Church argued for “likeness,” “reflection,” “essence” - but Paul said “image”

* Gk = *eikon* (icon - graphic design, picture art, carved statue or idol) -

Exodus 20:4-5 NKJV 4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me,

Matthew 22:20 NKJV And He said to them, “**Whose image and inscription is this?**”

* No statues of stone or wood or pictures could represent God...He will send one of human flesh and blood -

John 1:14 NKJV And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

* To look at Jesus of Nazareth is to look at God -

John 14:8-9 NKJV 8 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

9 Jesus said to him, “**Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’**

2 Corinthians 4:4 NKJV whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Hebrew 1:3 NKJV who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

* He is not a partial revelation, but the full expression - v.19, *in Him all fulness should dwell*

Earthly Manifestation - a showing forth of what was formerly hidden

* The invisible God is now visible in the face of the man Jesus -

1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16 NKJV Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. **6:16** who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen.

Hebrews 11:27 NKJV By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

* God's plan all along was to come in human form and reveal Himself to us -

John 1:18 NKJV No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

* If you want to know what God is like, look into the life and words of Jesus of Nazareth

**2. The Very Highest of the High in Position and Authority (v.15b - *the firstborn over all creation*)
Supreme over All**

* Jesus eternally existed before creation; He was not created (context of v.16) -

John 1:1-2 NKJV 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.

Isaiah 9:6 NKJV For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- * He was begotten into the human race when the Virgin Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit -

Luke 1:34-35 NKJV 34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"
 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."
- * "firstborn" refers to His position in the Father's family -

Romans 8:29 NKJV For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Hebrews 1:6 NKJV But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."
- * Jewish role of first-born son possessing all rights of privilege and inheritance to distribute to the family -

Genesis 49:3 NKJV "Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power."

Special in His Role

- * As the "only begotten Son" He is totally unique, one-of-a-kind, never-to-be-repeated Son of God -

John 1:18; 3:16 NKJV 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*. 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- * Believers are called "saints" and "sons of God," but not in the sense in which Jesus was begotten of God
- * He was begotten by the Holy Spirit in Mary's virgin womb; we are begotten by the Holy Spirit when we are "born again"
- * He was begotten into the new creation by His resurrection in a glorified, incorruptible body; we will be begotten at our resurrection into the kingdom age

3. The Very Agent of All Creation (v.16 - *For by Him all things were created...*)

For All Life and Matter

- * Heavenly and earthly, visible and invisible - inverse terms are a Hebrew type of poetry in this ancient hymn
- * He began with the invisible, spiritual realities, then made earthly, material -

Genesis 1:1 NKJV In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Job 38:4-7 NKJV 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?
- * Nothing was excepted from His direct involvement -

John 1:3-4 NKJV 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Acts 17:24-25 NKJV 24 "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things."

For All Levels of Authority

- * He designed and designated all realms of oversight and governance - *thrones or dominions or principalities or powers*
- * Spiritual (angelic and demonic) -

Hebrews 1:14 NKJV Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

2 Peter 2:4 NKJV For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;
- * Earthly -

Daniel 2:20-22; 4:17 NKJV 20 Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. 21 And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. 22 He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what *is* in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. 4:17 'This decision *is* by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.'

4. The Very Sustaining Force of All Existence (v.17, *He is before all things, and in Him all things consist*)

He Precedes All

* "before all" in terms of existing, and in terms of rank, authority, and importance -

Ephesians 1:20-21 NKJV **20** which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, **21** far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

1 Peter 3:22 NKJV who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

* Again, asserts that the Son is eternal, without beginning, from everlasting -

Psalms 90:2 NKJV Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

He Powers All

* All things "hold together" - do not fly apart (force of gravity, mystery of atom) - God's order and design point to Him

Romans 1:19-20 NKJV **19** because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. **20** For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Acts 17:28 NKJV for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

* The only realms where things do not hold together are where He is not acknowledged and given His rightful position to rule

* God's self-declared name is "I AM" (source of all, sustainer of all, ground of existence) -

Exodus 3:13-14 NKJV **13** Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I say to them?" **14** And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

5. The Very First in Everything (v.18, *that in all things He may have the pre-eminence*)

First in the Church

* *The head of the Body, the Church* - also chief cornerstone of the temple, bridegroom of the marriage -

1 Peter 2:5-6 NKJV **5** you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."

Ephesians 5:23 NKJV For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body

* Head of the body shares life, direction, coordination

First in the Resurrection

* *The firstborn from the dead* - unique to Jesus, as the only-begotten Son -

Acts 13:33-34 NKJV **33** God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.' **34** And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I will give you the sure mercies of David.'

* Others raised before and after were only resuscitated in their same body of corruption, to die again

* Jesus is the first fruits of a promised, future resurrection with glorified, immortal bodies for believers -

1 Corinthians 15:20-21 NKJV **20** But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.

First in Everything

* *In all things He may have pre-eminence*

* One day, all will be compelled to acknowledge Jesus as Christ and Lord over all the universe –

Romans 14:8-9 NKJV **8** For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. **9** For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Philippians 2:9-11 NKJV **9** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and

of those under the earth, 11and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.